

REACH



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Safe, Secure Storage Remains Project Cornerstone

For more than 50 years, the Army has kept vigilant watch over the chemical weapons stockpile at the Pine Bluff Arsenal, ensuring the protection and safety of the arsenal's workers, the community and the environment.

Safe, secure storage will be a project cornerstone until the last munition is destroyed in the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

"Safe and secure" took on a whole new meaning after the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. The Army has taken numerous additional steps to enhance stockpile security.

"We have a great security and monitoring workforce, and our procedures have been and are fully protective, but we realize the threat to the nation has changed," says Lt. Col. Ben Hagar, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) commander.

PBCA carries out the task of storing and monitoring chemical munitions in a high-security area. The Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA) shares in this critical job by maintaining 24-hour security forces for the installation as

a whole. Since the days after Sept. 11, infantry troops also have maintained a significant presence at the arsenal.

"The continuing presence of these soldiers at Pine Bluff Arsenal reflects how serious the Army is about safeguarding this facility and our local community," says Col. Mark Henscheid, PBA commander.

That commitment spurred the Army to cancel public tours in the wake of Sept. 11 and to limit access to the arsenal.

In December, the U.S. Department of Defense provided \$4.5 million for additional security measures at PBA. The funding enabled PBCA to enhance the storage of bulk containers of chemical blister agent. The ton containers have been safely stored outside for years, securely strapped in a high-security yard, but that has changed.

Even prior to receipt of the funds, PBCA began moving the ton containers into existing steel-reinforced concrete storage igloos. The initial phase of the project involved a re-warehousing operation to free up storage igloos within the chemical storage area and prepare them to store mustard containers. Conventional munition items that had been in those igloos were moved to other storage areas at PBA. During October 2001, more than half of the containers were placed into the hardened structures. The final, more costly phase of the project involves extending the chemical limited area, adding high-level security features, and then completing the move of the remaining containers to upgraded storage igloos.

"This has been conducted in a completely safe manner," says Lt. Col. Hagar. "We have had no injuries, incidents or leaks."

Editor's Note: This article is the first in a series of four planned for upcoming REACH editions on the cornerstone commitments for the chemical stockpile program at Pine Bluff. In addition to safe and secure storage, the cornerstones are emergency preparedness, proven technology and environmental stewardship.

Program Ensures Highest Standards for Stockpile Staff

A comprehensive screening process helps ensure the highest standards of reliability for the staff assigned to safeguard and monitor the chemical munitions stockpile. The Personnel Reliability Program (PRP) involves:

- Personal interview
- Security records screening
- Medical records screening
 - review of medical history
 - health records
 - physical condition
- Random drug testing
- Personnel records screening
 - credit report
 - driving record
- Continual evaluation

**PROJECT
CORNERSTONES**
SAFE and SECURE STORAGE

What is the Citizens' Advisory Commission?

Public involvement is a key component in the success of the Army's Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project. Community members can provide their input about the project to members of their Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC). CACs provide a vital,

independent public involvement link between the community, state agencies and the Army.

Citizens' Advisory Commissions consist of an average of nine members. The governor of the state where the stockpile is located appoints all members of the CAC. Two are state officials with technical expertise. The other members are from the region where the stockpile is located. Although members are not paid, the CAC does receive funding from the Army to cover administrative costs.

Citizens' Advisory Commissions were created as part of the National Defense Authorization Act in 1993 for states that maintain chemical weapon stockpiles.

Citizens' Advisory Commissions meet with Army representatives at least twice per year; although many meet more often. The Arkansas CAC meets every other month. Watch for meeting advertisements in the *White Hall Journal*, *Pine Bluff Commercial* and the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

At meetings, CAC members discuss issues related to the Army's plans for disposing of chemical weapons and how these affect state and local communities like ours. Typically, the CAC will hear reports and updates from representatives of the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and Washington Demilitarization Co., the Army's contractor for building and operating the facility. The CAC also may hear from representatives of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and state agencies including the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. The CAC provides a forum for exchanging information about chemical weapons disposal, ending every meeting with a public comment period.

The Army's top priorities for the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project are safely disposing the chemical weapons stored here at the Pine Bluff Arsenal and providing meaningful opportunities for the public to be involved in the project. The Army recognizes that public participation in the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project is critical to its success.

The Army invites you to contact the Arkansas Citizens' Advisory Commission to discuss the chemical disposal program and ways you may become involved. For more information on current issues the commission is considering or to receive the upcoming meeting schedule, please call the CAC secretary at 501-280-4523.

Meet Your CAC Members



Name: Maj. Gen.
Don C. Morrow

Home: Little Rock

Appointed to CAC in:
1996

The Pine Bluff/White Hall Outreach Office would like to introduce you to the members of the Arkansas Citizens' Advisory Commission. We will feature profiles of members in upcoming REACH issues. We begin our series with Maj. Gen. Don Morrow, the CAC chairman.

Occupation: Adjunct General of Arkansas since 1996. Maj. Gen. Morrow's military career with the Arkansas National Guard started in 1963. He has received numerous awards and decorations at state and federal levels including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal, Arkansas Exceptional Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Interests: Active member of many organizations, including the Executive Board of the Boys Scouts of America Quapaw Area Council, the Arkansas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinating Council and the United Way Board of Directors. He enjoys spending time with his wife and their three grandchildren.

As a CAC member I see my role as: "providing Arkansas citizens and especially those in the area of the Pine Bluff Arsenal a forum to interface with the U.S. Army and other governmental agencies on issues relating to the demilitarization of the chemical weapons stored at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. The CAC can provide the communication channel and be an information source for those citizens, but only if you make your concerns known to the CAC by attending our meetings and letting us know that you have questions and concerns. We may not solve all the issues, but we can be a valuable source of assistance in most cases. My personal goal is to see the day when all of the chemical weapons stored at the Pine Bluff Arsenal have been safely destroyed."

Twenty-Five Percent of Nation's Chemical Weapons Stockpile Destroyed



Tooele, Utah Facility Safely Destroys GB Nerve Agent Stockpile

The U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization recently announced that Utah's remaining stockpile of GB (Sarin) nerve agent was eliminated safely. Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workers now are preparing to destroy VX nerve agent.

The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located in Alabama, is conducting tests in preparation for destroying its stockpile, which includes rockets filled with GB agent. The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, located in Oregon, also is undergoing tests to demonstrate that the



The last GB bulk container being unloaded in the Unpack Area of the TOCDF.

"This is a significant milestone for chemical weapons disposal. Forty-four percent of the Utah stockpile is eliminated and more than 25 percent of the nation's entire chemical weapons stockpile is destroyed," said James Bacon, program manager for chemical demilitarization. In November 2000, the Army's Johnston Atoll facility in the Pacific Ocean completed safe destruction of its chemical stockpile.

TOCDF workers destroyed the GB stockpile first because continued storage posed the greatest threat to the community. GB agent has a consistency similar to water and is more likely to vaporize than other agent types. The original GB stockpile, which was stored safely at Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah, consisted of 928,906 rockets, bombs, projectiles and bulk containers. The depot stored the Army's largest stockpile of GB agent, more than 12 million pounds. This was twice the amount of GB stored at the nine other U.S. stockpile sites combined.

Now, the facility equipment will be decontaminated, and international treaty inspectors will certify official completion of the GB agent destruction campaign.

"We are sharing lessons learned during TOCDF's GB destruction campaign with our other chemical weapons disposal facilities to ensure continued safety and environmental stewardship," said Bacon.

facility is prepared for disposal operations to begin next year. Construction is nearly complete on Arkansas' Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Technology decisions for the Colorado and Kentucky facilities are expected later this year. And, the Maryland and Indiana facilities are investigating technologies for disposal of bulk chemical agent.

Construction Progresses at PBCDF

With workers making steady progress, construction of PBCDF is nearing 80 percent completion. Most of the walls and roofs are in place and finishing touches are being added. The project is at a point at which the work may no longer be as noticeable from a distance. Workers have now begun focusing more of their energies to interior projects.

The Army projects that construction will be substantially complete this fall. The process of systemization—extensive testing of all systems in the facility—and final training of operations and maintenance personnel are already underway and will continue for many months after construction is completed.

PBCDF continues to boost the area economy. Through Dec. 31, 2001, procurements totaling more than \$54 million have been awarded to Arkansas businesses.



We Want To Hear From You

The Pine Bluff and White Hall Chemical Stockpile Outreach Offices serve as a clearing house of information about the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity and the Army's plans for chemical weapons disposal. The outreach offices have materials that address your questions or concerns. The outreach staff also coordinates tours of the chemical weapons storage site.

If you would like more information about the Pine Bluff and White Hall Chemical Stockpile Outreach Offices, please phone 870-534-4901 or 870-247-2025, or complete the right side of this form and mail it to:

Pine Bluff Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office
3007 West 28th Street
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

☐ yes ☐ no

Would you like an information packet mailed to you?

☐ yes ☐ no

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, please complete the following:

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Do you know of any groups or individuals interested in participating in a Pine Bluff Chemical Activity and Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility presentation?

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____ e-mail: _____



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